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Experiments made at San Francisco to test the efficiency of Danysz's virus in the destruction of rats.

Assistant Surgeon Donald H. Currie reports, March 31, as follows: February 2 I received two tubes of this virus from the Pasteur Vaccine Company. February 4 I mixed one tube with half a pound of rye bread, in accordance with the directions printed on the tube, and fed it to 9 rats. February 13 the rats began to sicken, so I separated them, putting them into different cages, each rat into one cage. February 15 all rats had sickened in series 1. In these cages I placed 22 other rats and named these latter series 2. On February 17 2 rats of series 1 died with typhimurium infection. From that date to February 28, inclusive, 8 of the original 9 rats died from the same cause, all of them in series 1. From February 20 to March 1 5 rats of series 2 died. During this time all of series 2 were more or less sick, but 17 recovered. On March 13 all the rats which had not died had made a complete recovery, and had gained in weight to that before infection. They were chloroformed on this date.

From the above it will be seen that in series 1, that is to say, those rats which actually ate the virus, there was a mortality of 88.7 per cent, which would compare favorably with any of the ordinary poisons, such as phosphorus, etc., without any danger of poisoning other animals and human beings, as is the case in inorganic and organic poisons. In series 2, however, the mortality, as will be seen, was only 22.7 per cent, and when it is taken into consideration that those rats were confined in close quarters, which would not be attainable under natural conditions, it is probable that there would be little or no transmission of the disease in wild rats when at large. An interesting thing in this connection was noted, namely, that the healthy rats when placed in with the infected ones avoided the latter as much as possible. The conclusions which this experiment would lead one to draw are that the virus is efficient when actually fed to the rats, as is done with other poisons, and that it has not the dangers which phosphorus and arsenic possess; but the claim that the disease would be transmitted from rat to rat is probably only admissible in the laboratory, and is therefore impracticable of application in the destruction of the rats of a city.

Investigation of smallpox in Lumpkin, Ga.

Surg. W. P. McIntosh reports from Mobile, Ala., April 7, as follows:

In obedience to telegraphic orders of the 4th and 5th instants to "proceed to Lumpkin, Georgia, as expert to decide diagnosis in suspected case of smallpox," I left Mobile at 12 o'clock (midnight) April 5, arriving at Lumpkin the following morning. I visited the office of the mayor, who immediately called a meeting of the board of health.